

*Mar.* Will you then write me a Sonnet in praise of my beautie?

*Bene.* In so high a stile *Margaret*, that no man living shall come ouer it, for in most comely truth thou deferuest it.

*Mar.* To haue no man come ouer me, why, shall I alwaies keepe below staires?

*Bene.* Thy wit is as quicke as the grey-hounds mouth, it catches.

*Mar.* And yours, as blunt as the Fencers foiles, which hit, but hurt not.

*Bene.* A most manly wit *Margaret*, it will not hurt a woman: and so I pray thee call *Beatrice*, I giue thee the bucklers.

*Mar.* Giue vs the swords, wee haue bucklers of our owne.

*Bene.* If you vse them *Margaret*, you must put in the pikes with a vice, and they are dangerous weapons for Maides.

*Mar.* Well, I will call *Beatrice* to you, who I thinke hath legges.

*Exit Margaret.*

*Bene.* And therefore will come. The God of loue that sits aboue, and knowes me, and knowes me, how pittifull I deserue. I meane in fingring, but in louing, *Leander* the good swimmer, *Troilus* the first imploier of pandars, and a whole booke full of these quondam carper-mongers, whose name yet runne smoothly in the euen rode of a blanke verse, why they were neuer so truly turned ouer and ouer as my poore selfe in loue: marrie I cannot shew it rime, I haue tried, I can finde out no rime to Ladie but babie, an innocent rime: for scorne, home, a hard time: for schoole foole, a babling time: verie ominous endings, no, I was not borne vnder a riming Plannet, for I cannot woode in festiuall tearmes:

*Enter Beatrice.*

(sweete *Beatrice* wouldst thou come when I call'd thee?)

*Beat.* Yea Signior, and depart when you bid me.

*Bene.* O stay but till then.

*Beat.* Then, is spoken: fare you well now, and yet ere I goe, let me goe with that I came, which is, with knowing what hath past betweene you and *Claudio*.

*Bene.* Onely foule words, and thereupon I will kisse thee.

*Beat.* Foule words is but foule wind, and foule wind is but foule breath, and foule breath is noisome, therefore I will depart vnkist.

*Bene.* Thou hast frighted the word out of his right sence, so forcible is thy wit, but I must tell thee plainly, *Claudio* vndergoes my challenge, and either I must shortly heare from him, or I will subscribe him a coward, and I pray thee now tell me, for which of my bad parts didst thou first fall in loue with me?

*Beat.* For them all together, which maintain'd so politique a state of euill, that they will not admit any good part to intermingle with them: but for which of my good parts did you first suffer loue for me?

*Bene.* Suffer loue! a good epithite, I do suffer loue in-deede, for I loue thee against my will.

*Beat.* In spite of your heart I thinke, alas poore heart, if you spight it for my sake, I will spight it for yours, for I will neuer loue that which my friend hates.

*Bened.* Thou and I are too wise to woode peaceably.

*Beat.* It appeares not in this confession, there's not one wife man among twentie that will praise himselfe.

*Bene.* An old, an old instance *Beatrice*, that liu'd in the time of good neighbours, if a man doe not erect in this age his owne tombe ere he dies, hee shall line no longer in monuments, then the Bels ring, & the Widdow weepes.

*Beat.* And how long is that thinke you?

*Bene.* Question, why an hower in clamour and a quarter in rethwme, therefore is it most expedient for the wife, if Don worne (his conscience) finde no impediment to the contrarie, to be the trumpet of his owne vertues, as I am to my selfe so much for praising my selfe, who I my selfe will beare witness is praise worthie, and now tell me, how doth your cosin?

*Beat.* Verie ill.

*Bene.* And how doe you?

*Beat.* Verie ill too.

*Enter Ursula.*

*Bene.* Serue God, loue me, and mend, there will I leaue you too, for here comes one in haste.

*Vrs.* Madam, you must come to your Vncle, yonders old coile at home, it is proued my Ladie *Hero* hath bin falselie accus'd, the Prince and *Claudio* mightlie abus'd, and *Don Iohn* is the author of all, who is fled and gone: will you come presentlie?

*Beat.* Will you go heare this newes Signior?

*Bene.* I will liue in thy heart, die in thy lap, and be buried in thy eies: and moreover, I will goe with thee to thy Vncles.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Claudio, Prince, and three or foure with Tapers.*

*Claud.* Is this the monument of *Leonato*?

*Lord.* It is my Lord.

*Epitaph.*

*Done to death by slanderous tongues,*

*Was the Hero that here lies:*

*Death in gnerdon of her wrongs,*

*Giues her fame which neuer dies:*

*So the life that dyed with shame,*

*Lives in death with glorious fame.*

*Hang thou there vpon the tombe,*

*Praising her when I am dombe.*

*Claud.* Now mulick sound & sing your solemn hymne

Song.

*Pardon goddess of the night,*

*Those that slew thy virgin knight,*

*For the which with songs of woe,*

*Round about her tombe they goe:*

*Midnight assist our mone, helpe vs to sigh and grone.*

*Heauily, heauily.*

*Graces yawne and yeelde your dead,*

*Till death be vttered,*

*Heauently, heauently.*

(this right)

*Lo.* Now vnto thy bones good night, yeerely will I do

*Prin.* Good morrow masters, put your Torchcs out,

The wolues haue preied, and looke, the gentle day

Before the wheelcs of *Phcebus*, round about

Dapples the drowlic East with spots of grey:

Thanks to you all, and leaue vs, fare you well.

*Claud.* Good morrow masters, each his feuerall way.

*Prin.* Come let vs hence, and put on other weedcs,

And then to *Leonatos* we will goe.

*Claud.* And Hymen now with luckier issue speeds,

Then

Then this for whom we rendred vp this woe. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Leonato, Bene, Marg, Ursula, old man, Frier, Hero.*

*Frier.* Did I not tell you she was innocent?

*Leo.* So are the Prince and *Claudio* who accus'd her,

Vpon the errour that you heard debated:

But *Margaret* was in some fault for this;

Although against her will as it appeares,

In the true course of all the question.

*Old.* Well, I am glad that all things sort so well.

*Bene.* And so am I, being else by faith enforc'd

To call young *Claudio* to a reckoning for it.

*Leo.* Well daughter, and you gentlewomen all,

Withdraw into a chamber by your selues,

And when I send for you, come hither mask'd:

The Prince and *Claudio* promis'd by this howre

To visit me, you know your office Brother,

You must be father to your brothers daughter,

And giue her to young *Claudio*. *Exeunt Ladies.*

*Old.* Which I will doe with confirm'd countenance.

*Bene.* Frier, I must intreat your paines, I thinke.

*Frier.* To doe what Signior?

*Bene.* To binde me, or vndoe me, one of them:

Signior *Leonato*, truth it is good Signior,

Your neece regards me with an eye of fauour.

*Leo.* That eye my daughter lent her, 'tis most true.

*Bene.* And I doe with an eye of loue requite her.

*Leo.* The sight whereof I thinke you had from me,

From *Claudio*, and the Prince, but what's your will?

*Bene.* Your answer sir is Enigmaticall,

But for my will, my will is, your good will

May stand with ours, this day to be conioyn'd,

In the state of honourable marriage,

In which (good Frier) I shall desire your helpe.

*Leo.* My heart is with your liking.

*Frier.* And my helpe.

*Enter Prince and Claudio, with attendants.*

*Prin.* Good morrow to this faire assembly.

*Leo.* Good morrow Prince, good morrow *Claudio*:

We heere attend you, are you yet determin'd,

To day to marry with my brothers daughter?

*Claud.* He hold my minde were she an Ethiopie.

*Leo.* Call her forth Brother, heres the Frier ready.

*Prin.* Good morrow *Benedicke*, why what's the matter?

That you haue such a Februarie face,

So full of frost, of storme, and clowdiness.

*Claud.* I thinke he thinkes vpon the sauage bull:

Tush, feare not man, wee'll tip thy homes with gold,

And all *Europa* shall reioyce at thee,

As once *Europa* did at lusty *Ioue*,

When he would play the noble beast in loue.

*Bene.* Bull *Ioue* sir, had an amiable low,

And some such strange bull leapt your fathers Cow,

A got a Calfe in that same noble feat,

Much like to you, for you haue iust his bleat.

*Enter brother, Hero, Beatrice, Margaret, Ursula.*

*Cla.* For this I owe you: here comes other reckonings.

Which is the Lady I must seize vpon?

*Leo.* This same is she, and I doe giue you her.

*Cla.* Why then she's mine, sweet let me see your face.

*Leo.* No that you shal not, till you take her hand,

Before this Frier, and sweare to marry her.

*Claud.* Giue me your hand before this holy Frier,

I am your husband if you like of me.

*Hero.* And when I liu'd I was your other wife,

And when you lou'd, you were my other husband.

*Claud.* Another *Hero*? *Exeunt.*

*Hero.* Nothing certainer.

One *Hero* died, but I doe liue,

And surely as I liue, I am a maid.

*Prin.* The former *Hero*, *Hero* that is dead.

*Leo.* Shee died my Lord, but whiles her slander liu'd.

*Frier.* All this amazement can I qualifie,

When after that the holy rites are ended,

Ile tell you largely of faire *Heroes* death:

Meane time let wonder seeme familiar,

And to the chappell let vs presently.

*Bene.* Soft and faire Frier, which is *Beatrice*?

*Beat.* I answer to that name, what is your will?

*Bene.* Doe not you loue me?

*Beat.* Why no, no more then reason.

*Bene.* Why then your Vncle, and the Prince, & *Claudio*,

haue beene deceiued, they swore you did.

*Beat.* Doe not you loue mee?

*Bene.* Troth no, no more then reason.

*Beat.* Why then my Cosin *Margaret* and *Ursula*

Are much deceiud, for they did sweare you did.

*Bene.* They swore you were almost sicke for me.

*Beat.* They swore you were wel-nye dead for me.

*Bene.* 'Tis no matter, then you doe not loue me?

*Beat.* No truly, but in friendly recompence.

*Leo.* Come Cosin, I am sure you loue the gentlemā.

*Claud.* And Ile be sworne vpon't, that he loues her,

For heres a paper written in his hand,

A halting sonnet of his owne pure braine,

Fashioned to *Beatrice*.

*Hero.* And heeres another,

Writ in my cosins hand, stolne from her pocket,

Containing her affection vnto *Benedicke*.

*Bene.* A miracle, heres our owne hands against our

hearts: come I will haue thee, but by this light I take

thee for pittie.

*Beat.* I would not denie you, but by this good day, I

yeeld vpon great perswasion, & partly to saue your life,

for I was told, you were in a consumption.

*Leo.* Peace I will stop your mouth.

*Prin.* How dost thou *Benedicke* the married man?

*Bene.* Ile tell thee what Prince: a Colledge of witt-

crackers cannot flout mee out of my humour, dost thou

think I care for a Satyre or an Epigram? As, if a man will

be beaten with braines, a shall weare nothing handsome

about him: in briebe, since I do purpose to marry, I will

thinke nothing to any purpose that the world can say a-

gainst it, and therefore neuer flout at me, for I haue said

against it: for man is a giddy thing, and this is my con-

clusion: for thy part *Claudio*, I did thinke to haue beaten

thee, but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, liue vn-

bruis'd, and loue my cosin.

*Cla.* I had well hop'd I wouldst haue denied *Beatrice*,

I might haue cudgell'd thee out of thy single life, to make

thee a double dealer, which out of questiō thou wilt be,

if my Cousin do not looke exceeding narrowly to thee.

*Bene.* Come, come, we are friends, let's haue a dance

ere we are married, that we may lighten our owne hearts,

and our wiues heeles.

*Leo.* Wee'll haue dancing afterward.

*Bene.* First, of my word, therefore play musick, Prince,

thou art sad, get thee a vwife, get thee a vwife, there is no

staff more reuerend then one tipst with horn. *Enter Mes.*

*Messen.* My Lord, your brother *Iohn* is tane in flight,

And brought with armed men backe to *Messina*.

*Bene.* Thinke not on him till to morrow, ile deuise

thee braue punishments for him: strike vp Pipers, Dance.

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FINIS.